

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
March 10, 2010
Conference Call

Present: Jim Hodder
Shaun Sims
Jim Bennage, Vice President
Joe Thomas, President
Bryan Brost
Jim Price
John Hansen

Absent: Juan Reyes
Patrick Zimmerer
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
Jason Fearneyhough, Director
Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson, Manager of the Policy and Natural Resource Division
Slade Franklin, weed and Pest Coordinator

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

The board will review their strategic plan at the April meeting, as well as the F.A.I.R. MOU.

Rangeland Health

Leanne said the bill passed and is waiting for the Governor's signature. The funding of \$200,000 will go to the department for projects, \$20,000 will also go to the department to initiate the program and the other \$100,000 will go to the University of Wyoming to help with education and technical help. Shaun said there are a few conservation districts ready to start their program when the funding is available. The effective date of the bill is July 1, but she said work will continue so they will be ready July 1 to roll out the program. This bill has an umbrella effect to cover everyone one on keeping their monitoring data private.

The bill will also give the permittees additional standing in negotiations through a partnership agreement. Any data collected will have to become part of the file.

ATV Road Improvements

Leanne said there is a meeting set up for April 6 in Saratoga with the Forest Service to discuss this issue. Chris Wichmann is working on the economic data to show the benefit to communities by recreationists. John Hansen is planning on attending and Leanne will keep him informed.

Joint Meeting with the Business Council

Jim Bennage suggested the two boards meet before the regular meeting of the Business Council rather than after. He also suggested a similar format to that of the joint meeting our board has in the fall with the Game and Fish Commission. The issues will be discussed at the April meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Update

Jim Hodder said they have been brainstorming and are focusing on funding for value added needs for production ag. He said Ted Craig is also looking into funding for a mobile slaughter.

Grasshopper Program

Slade was on the call to update everyone on the grasshopper program. Senator Geis is looking into moving some revision funds into the program, also with a portion of the pesticide registrations and some from the State Allocation Fund. If this goes through, the Emergency Insect Account will be in charge of the funding since the protocols are already in place.

Wild Horse Meeting

There is a meeting scheduled for this Friday in Wamsutter. The scoping has been done for the fall gather and the schedule will be released after April. John Hansen will try and attend. Muff will send him the information.

Sage Grouse Listing

The final decision was handed down that the grouse is warranted but precluded. It was number 8 on the list. Western Watersheds has already filed a lawsuit. The issue of using public funds to file these lawsuits is an issue Congresswoman Lummis is taking seriously. She is co-sponsoring a bill to make the reporting of the use of those funds mandatory. Shaun Sims said NACD wrote a letter of support to her.

Conservation District Appointments

Shaun Sims made a motion to appoint Clinton Streeter to the rural position on the Crook County Conservation District that was vacated by Ted Moline for the unexpired term. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. Shaun Sims made a motion to appoint Kenny Magheim, Jr. to the at-large position on the North Platte Valley Conservation District that was vacated by Norma Clark for the unexpired term. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bennage, President

Date